



Announcing Washington State's NEW

Top 2 Primary

Washington State has a new Top 2 Primary!

The Primary on August 19, 2008, will be the first time Washington State voters use the Top 2 Primary.

What is "party preference?"

Each candidate for partisan office may state a political party that he or she prefers.

A candidate's preference does not imply that the candidate is nominated or endorsed by the party, or that the party approves of or associates with that candidate.

Candidates may choose not to state a political party preference.

Sample ballot:

State of Washington Partisan Office
Legislative Position
Juanita Fernandez (Prefers Democratic Party)
Jamal Carver (Prefers Republican Party)
Joe Smith (States No Party Preference)



No more Pick-a-Party

You do not have to pick a party. You may vote for **any** one of the candidates listed, regardless of the candidate's stated party preference.

How the Top 2 Primary works

In each race, the two candidates who receive the most votes in the August Primary will advance to the November General Election.

NOTE: It is possible that the two candidates advancing to the General Election in a race will prefer the same party.

Why Washington has a Top 2 Primary

In 2004, Initiative 872 proposed a Top 2 Primary system. Washington voters overwhelmingly approved the Top 2 Primary, but in 2005, the United States District Court ruled that it was unconstitutional. The United States Supreme Court overturned the lower court's ruling on March 18, 2008.



Need more information?

For more information on Washington State's Top 2 Primary, call the Office of the Secretary of State Voter Information Hotline at (800) 448-4881, TDD/TTY at (800) 422-8683, or visit www.vote.wa.gov.